

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AF-08 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2393

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0401

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, XL, BB

SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: BARBADOS

REF: A) USUN 0319 B) BRIDGETOWN 0274 (NOTAL)

1. PARA 10 OF REF A REFLECTED OUR ANALYSIS OF BARBADEAN VOTES ON A RANGE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES INCLUDING GUAM, PARAGRAPHS CONDEMNING THE US, AMONG OTHERS, AND NATO, THE RESOLUTIONS CONTAINING THOSE PARAGRAPHS, CONTENTIOUS RESOLUTIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION, AND MAJOR NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES. ON 15 VOTES ON POLITICAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US (WHERE THERE WERE SOME LATIN VOTES WITH US OR ABSTENTIONS), BARBADOS DID NOT VOTE WITH US IN A SINGLE INSTANCE, VOTED IN OPPOSITION TO US SEVEN TIMES, ABSTAINED SEVEN TIMES AND WAS ABSENT ONCE. ABSTENTIONS ON THE VOTES ON PARAGRAPHS CONDEMNING THE UNITED STATES, AMOONG OTHERS, AND NATO AND ENMOD INDICATE SOME SENSITIVITY TO OUR CONCERNS. OTHER ABSTENTIONS WERE ON PARTICULARLY CONTENTIOUS
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MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTIONS.

2. ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, BARBADOS VOTED SOLIDLY IN SUPPORT OF AFRICAN INITIATIVES ON NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE AND IN OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. BARBADOS SUPPORTED MOST MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING THAT ON ISRAELI/SOUTH AFRICAN

COLLABORATION, WHERE MANY LATINS, INCLUDING BAHAMAS, GRENADA AND HAITI ABSTAINED, BUT NOT INCLUDING FIVE OTHER MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTIONS WHERE THE LATIN VOTE WAS SPLIT. ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES, THE BARBADEAN RECORD, LIKE THAT OF THE REST OF THE GROUP OF 77, WAS ONE OF UNIFORM OPPOSITION TO US POSITIONS.

3. COMPARING BARBADOS TO OTHER CARIBBEAN COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS, GUYANA, JAMAICA, AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, VOTED AGAINST US ON ALMOST ALL OF THE VOTES IN QUESTION. WHILE BAHAMAS DID NOT VOTE WITH US IN ANY INSTANCE, THEY VOTED AGAINST US ON ONLY TWO OCCASIONS AND ABSTAINED IN THE LARGE MAJORITY OF CASES. GRENADA VOTED WITH US ON THREE ISSUES (GUAM, DELETION OF A CONDEMNATION OF NATO, AND THE RESOLUTION CONTAINING THAT PARAGRAPH), AND VOTED AGAINST US NINE TIMES.

4. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE ONLY CASE IN WHICH THE PERM REP OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BARBADEAN MISSION PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE WAS IN THE EFFORT TO INCREASE PERSONNEL QUOTAS FOR SMALL COUNTRIES. ON THIS ISSUE, THE BARBADEAN PROPOSAL (EVENTUALLY WITHDRAWN) WENT CONSIDERABLY FURTHER THAN MOST OTHER LDC'S, AND BARBADOS WAS AMONG THE MOST RADICAL OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON THE ISSUE.

5. CONCERNING ISSUES WITH A LATIN AMERICAN OR CARIBBEAN DIMENSION, BARBADOS VOTED WITH THE OTHER
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COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEANS ON THE BELIZE, HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE AND THE FALKLANDS RESOLUTIONS.

6. A RIGOROUS COMPARISON BETWEEN THE BARBADEAN RECORD AT THE 30TH AND 31ST GA'S IS NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF DIFFERENT ISSUES AND CIRCUMSTANCES. AT THE 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BARBADOS VOTED WITH US ON FIVE IMPORTANT VOTES INCLUDING BOTH KOREAN RESOLUTIONS, THE PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE VOTES ON THE ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION AND AN IMPORTANT MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION. ALSO, BARBADOS ABSTAINED ON THE GUAM RESOLUTION AND ON THE OMNIBUS DECOLONIZATION RESOLUTION. AS NOTED, NO COMPARABLE EXAMPLES OF VOTES WITH US ON ISSUES THAT MATTERED TO US OCCURRED AT THE 31ST UNGA AND BARBADOS MOVED FROM ABSTENTION ON BOTH THE GUAM AND OMNIBUS DECOLONIZATION RESOLUTIONS TO VOTES IN OPPOSITION TO THE US POSITION. BARBADOS (AS WELL AS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, THE BAHAMAS AND SURINAM) REFUSED OUR REQUEST TO COSPONSOR AN

INNOCUOUS RESOLUTION ON THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS.

7. USUN AMBASSADORS AND MISSION OFFICERS ENJOYED
CORDIAL RELATIONS AND FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH
BARBADEAN PERM REP AND MISSION OFFICERS, WHO
EMPHASIZED BARBADOS' FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

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